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Mrs. Linwood Holton Confers With Children at a Neighbor's Swimming Pool in Roanoke. Tayloe (left), Woody and Anne Are Already Active Campaigners in Their Father's Behalf.

## GOP Candidate's Wife Made Political Switch With Ease

By Betty Parker Ashton  
Times-Dispatch Staff Writer  
ROANOKE — Until she was an adult, Virginia Rogers Holton knew two Republicans.

One was a man in the neighborhood, after whose name people mentally added "the Republican." The presence of someone of that political persuasion was that

unusual. The other was prominent Virginia Republican Ted Dalton, a hunting friend of Mrs. Holton's father, who is a staunch Byrd Democrat.

Now Mrs. Holton's husband is running on the Republican ticket for Governor of Virginia, but the political switch for the active young matron was not so great after all. "I cast my first vote for Eisenhower, to my father's

delight," she said.

MRS. HOLTON, a Roanoke native, is the daughter of Frank W. Rogers, one of the two attorneys who went to Moscow in 1960 to defend American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers.

She herself wanted to be a lawyer, but was dissuaded by her father, who said she was naturally too argumentative

without training.

So, instead, she decided to go live in Paris and accordingly majored in French at Wellesley College, from which she was graduated with distinction in 1946, and took an English-French secretarial course in New York.

She then went to Paris, but got a job as a secretary in the American Embassy in Brussels for a couple of years

then became an intelligence analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington.

She was there when friends summoned her home to go to a Christmas dance with a new bachelor in town they just knew she'd like.

"Usually arranged meetings like that don't turn out too well, but this one certainly did," Mrs. Holton said.

The lawyer was A. Linwood Holton Jr. of Big Stone Gap.

**THE HOLTONS WERE** married in 1953 and there are now three children—Taylor, a daughter, 8; Anne, 7, and Woody, named for his father, 6.

Since her marriage, "Jinks" Holton—so nicknamed by a brother who couldn't pronounce "Virginia" when he was small—has led a fairly typical young housewife-mother role.

Her concerns have been with home, family, the civic and cultural life of her community.

She works with Mercy House, the Roanoke county nursing home, the Family Service Association, the Roanoke Symphony Society, the Junior League and the Second Presbyterian Church.

She dabbles in music, theater, tennis, skiing.

**MUSIC AND SKIING** are hobbies she shares with her husband. Both play the piano and Mrs. Holton belongs to a housewives' group of pianists, ranging in age from 30 to 80 and in ability from rank beginners to professional teachers. They take individual lessons, twice a month meet to study theory and harmony and hold Sunday afternoon musicales. Mrs. Holton is faithful to her house-day

The Holtons make winter week end trips to Hot Springs for skiing, and this year had to postpone a skiing trip to Austria.

"We're praying we'll have to postpone it again. It's set now for February," Mrs. Holton said.

If Holton wins the election, he'll be in the midst of a General Assembly session in February.

Mrs. Holton plays women's doubles in a fun game of tennis several times a week.

For nine years, she's been a "sporadic" bit actress with the Show-Timers, the theater at Salem.

**HER ROLES HAVE** included a procession of maids and housekeepers, Mother Burnside in "Auntie Mame" and a gray mare in an original dramatic reading by a local writer.

Mrs. Holton also does backstage work and is active with the Junior League's children's theater.

She comes from an Episcopal family—her grandfather was Bishop Robert Carter Jeff, president of Stuart Hall for many years—but she became a Presbyterian when she married Holton and teaches a Sunday school class and a women's Bible class in the church.

The Holtons live in a big beige brick house, which Mrs. Holton manages with part-time help, and from which two of the children depart each morning for a 10-block walk to school with their father.

On the way, they pick up other neighborhood children, and Holton, briefcase in hand, leads a large group of little people to the school, then takes the bus to work.

"He says it's his chance to talk to children," Mrs. Holton said. "He learns, and they learn."

**THEY'RE AVID**, though voiceless, supporters in the campaign for Governor. Already they've been out on the corner, shouting at the traffic and waving "Holton for Governor" signs.

For her part, Mrs. Holton is enjoying the campaign as it begins to get into swing, because she enjoys meeting new people, and she accompanies her husband on his campaign trips about the state.